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A

Lincolnſhire Freeholder,

ON THE

THOUGHTS

OF

A REVEREND AUTHOR,

RESPECTING

Sir GILBERT HEATHCOTE's

ADDRESS

TO THE

COUNTY FREEHOLDERS.

"Do Juſtice, love Mercy, and walk humbly with "thy God."

BOSTON:

NOVEMBER the twenty-ſixth, Anti Xti 1795.

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Boſton, Jan. 8, 1796.

AN ANSWER TO *Thoughts of a Lincolnſhire Freeholder on Sir Gilbert Heathcote's Addreſs to the Freeholders of the County of Lincoln*, having been printed at Boſton; but the *baſhful author* having mentioned no price, or bookſeller from whom it may be procured; it has been *accurately re-printed*, from a *ſcarce and curious copy*; and may be had *gratis*, by purchaſers of the remaining copies of "*The Thoughts*;" at the Shops of B. B. Kelſey, Spilſby and Boſton, W. Brooke, Lincoln, and Peat and Newcomb, Stamford.

A
LINCOLNSHIRE FREEHOLDER,
ON THE THOUGHTS OF A
Rev. AUTHOR, &c.

GREAT as the variety of Funguſes which ſpring up, even ſo are thoſe *Muſhroom Gentlemen* who intrude their Opinions and *Thoughts* upon others, unaſked and unſolicited. Among ſuch is the little Author of a Pamphlet, entitled, '*Thoughts of a Lincolnſhire Freeholder, on the late Addreſs of Sir Gilbert Heathcote.*

A diſſolution of Parliament may happen ſuddenly: I agree with him, and ſo unexpectedly that his *little Voice* may be drowned in the noiſy rattling of Carriages. For if I am told a Truth, it appears even leſs than the humming of a *Bumble Bee*, when he holds forth

forth in his ſacred Roſtrum—(except in the preſence of a *Biſhop* or *Archdeacon*,) little attention then can ſuch a voice claim from the many, when it cannot be heard by the few.

Aſſiſted by, and, I fear, tempted to turn Author by a friendly Aſſociate of his, this little clerical upſtart undertakes to dictate to a whole County of reſpectable Freeholders, preſuming he had nothing to do, but to captivate their Reaſon to his Faith, and make them with eaſe ſwallow the *verbum ſacerdotis*.

The groſs of the World, I will allow, are dull and credulous to a fault; few make enquiries at all, and fewer ſucceſsful ones: yet not ſo eaſy deluded in theſe enlightened days, as to believe that Doubting is *Infidelity*, and Reaſoning *Atheiſm*.

The qualifications for a Knight of the Shire, our Author ſays are four—To be legally ſo, Independant, to have a knowledge of County Buſineſs, and a Reſidence within the County—The firſt and ſecond ſcarce need a reply, the Oath taken by each Member being ſuch, as muſt, of courſe, do away every objection to them,

them, unleſs that Oath is ſwallowed with as little remorſe of Conſcience, as ſome *Articles* are ſubſcribed to, well known by our pious and worthy Prelate.

As to Sir Gilbert's competent knowledge of County Buſineſs, I make no doubt but in Theory it is great, though in Practice ſmall. But did not the firſt and greateſt Stateſman of the age (Mr. PITT) burſt from his recluſe, and like the opening Day, ſhine forth with refulgent luſtre, even ſo, I make no doubt, from the care and attention paid to the Morals and Education of Sir Gilbert, will he do.

As to the neceſſity of his Reſidence being within the County, it may be right, it may be proper; yet if Chriſtian divine Zeal, is inſpired by the Almighty, and is attended with every other Virtue, whence ariſes a wiſh in the breaſt of our Lamb-like Author, to deny a *Layman* that privilege which his meek Brethren enjoy unmoleſted? I mean the indulgence of *non*-reſidence.

A Knight of the Shire, ſays our Author too, ſhould not ſhew a perverſe Independency, by putting *drag-chains* on the wheels of Government;

Government; I preſume he means, among other things —*

Courting the favour of Freeholders, by indiſcriminate Hoſpitality, is what I do not fully comprehend; but I preſume the Author means by his Doctrine of Diſcrimination not to exclude the *fawning Sycophant*, or *devout Impoſtor*, as the Door to Preferment might then poſſibly be ſhut againſt himſelf —As to the noble Diverſion of *Fox-hunting*, it would be *lay*-Sacrilege to ſay much on that head as neither our Author or his Anceſtors ever had Blood enough in their Veins, to give them a reliſh for it, or views beyond the groveling Ideas of a *Maſh-Tub*, ſave and except that of making a canonized Saint of their Son—How unlike is this modern zeal of our Author's to that of the Apoſtles——they even ventured their lives to promote Peace and Happineſs; not to ſow the *Seeds* of *Diſcord*, and *Diſcontent* among Mankind—But alas! thoſe Suns are ſet—thoſe Days are paſt away!

Our

* A few lines are here omitted in THIS EDITION; as being partly of an ACTIONABLE NATURE, and partly as prejudging a cauſe in hand.

Our Author next asks, what can be expected from a *young Man* of *twenty*; if not corrupted by the Vices of a College—I reply, every good is to be expected from him—'Train up 'a child in the way he should go, and when 'he is old, he will not depart from it.'

The celebrated *Brothers** and his fellow *Prophets*, whether in Rutland or Lincolnshire, do not seem to hurt much our *modern Zealots of Religion*; or the Idolatry and Infidelity under which the world now lies to interrupt either their *Quiet*, *Luxury*, or *Enjoyment*.

I will now ask our Author, what the present Members of our County have done towards the drainage of it, &c.

The rotten Sheep and starved Geese, I believe, *may* rot and be d——d for them and him too, unless his *Livings* would increase by the adoption of another plan.——Great men as usual will have *great* shares of an *Inclosure*, I confess,—the least exhorbitant of which, in their demands on these occasions, are seldom found

* Brothers, a false Prophet of recent Notoriety.

found to be Men of our Author's caſt or Character.

Nor need Sir Gilbert travel much, to ſee bad examples, No! he is well employed at home, in preventing their increaſe in *this* happy Iſle, and has given ſeveral proofs of his attachment to his *Country's Welfare.* It would give me much pleaſure in hearing of one *ſolitary* Inſtance of our preſent County Members having done the ſame.

As to the Boroughs of Grantham, Stamford, and Boſton, I am unacquainted with them all but the latter, the Corporate Members of which, I confeſs to have known confer Favours on Strangers, who have repaid them with *Ingratitude*, and as a late worthy Prelate obſerved, *one* of thoſe *Strangers* did wonders, and wrought a *Miracle*; even that of bringing the whole of it's Members to *Repentance.*——

Our Author did well in paſſing by the matter of *Honour*; I infer from this it is known to him only by name. If in the little *Mouſehole* of Rutland could be found a *rich Benefice*

for

for him, would not Sir Gilbert be idolized by our little Saint—O, no! ſooner, I reckon, could a Camel paſs through the Eye of a Needle, a Cut-throat, be turned into a Saint, or a Madman into a Martyr.

Inſtead of the Apple of Diſcord, I preſume our Author muſt mean the *Colloquintida*, or bitter Apple, though its virtues are the reverſe of what he alledges, for if properly adminiſtered, it will *cure* the Heart-burn, and might be adminiſtered with good effect to one or more of his Friends, at this time, for by its rough and purgative qualities, as an Alterative, it would purify and cleanſe their coagulated and corrupted Blood.

The Statutes repealed, or unrepealed, I leave to thoſe who *preſume*, as our Author ſays, to ſit in Parliament, *dumb*, *deaf*, or *eloquent*.

From what could ariſe the obſervation of our bleſſed and beloved Sovereign to his Attendants, THAT HE HAD FORGOT LINCOLNSHIRE WAS A PART OF HIS DOMINIONS, but from the little reſpect and attention ſhewn him by its County Members.

Members. If this obſervation was neceſſary, (and I make no doubt but it was) I do maintain that it would be a reflection upon the Freeholders at large, at the next Election, to return the preſent Members, and that none are ſo proper to ſucceed them, as Men who poſſeſs the greateſt landed Property in the County.

What is it that of late has infuſed that conſiderable portion of Vigour into our Gentry, as the Author obſerves?—I will tell him; The moſt reſpectable Freeholders finding a total neglect of the civilities due to them from their preſent Members, a diſapproval of their meaſures as Oppoſitioniſts to the beſt of Governments, and the avowed Intention of Sir Gilbert to offer his Services at the next General Election.

His Conduct, our Author ſays, was inconſiderate, indecorous, and preſumptuous: I ſay it was gentleman-like, noble, and generous. He did not wiſh to come like an Aſſaſſin, or a Thief in the Night, to take us by Surprize. Go then my little Friend and Au-

thor,

thor, and learn that *true* Zeal is a ſincere and warm concern for the Glory of God, and the *ſpiritual Welfare* of Mankind, and never more attempt to be a Diſturber of their Repoſe, or a Foe to their Happineſs, by inflaming their Minds with an unſocial bitterneſs of Spirit, not any way becoming either the Character or Profeſſions of a Chriſtian.

CHRIST'S APOSTLES were *Penmen*; but Penmen only of the HOLY GHOST.—They *wrote BOOKS of SCRIPTURE.*

GABRIEL.

(FINIS.)